Vigilance Enquiry Against CMDs Of Banks

709. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of CMDs of Public Sector Banks against whom vigilance enquiry is going on along with the details of cases against each; and

(b) since when these enquiries are going on and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a Preliminary Enquiry was registered against Shri Rashid Jilani, Chairman & Managing Director, Punjab National Bank (PNB), officials of PNB Caps and others on 3.9.1998 relating to irregularities in sanction of short term deposit/bridge loan to two companies. The above case has since been converted into a Regular Case on 28.10.1999. CBI has also registered another Preliminary Enquiry against Shri Rashid Jilani, Chairman & Managing Director, Punjab National Bank in the matter relating to irregularities in the securities transactions of the bank on 3.9.1998. The completion of the investigation in the above cases depends upon the collection and scrutiny of evidence to prove the allegations and no time frame can be estimated. As per available information, no CBI case is pending against any of the other existing CMDs of the public sector banks.

Reduction in Import Duty on Papers

†710. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import duty on Paper has been reduced from 150% to 20%;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this industry has to bear more expenditure towards interest, power and raw materials in comparison to multi-nationals; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to promote the paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The present import duty (basic plus surcharge) on paper is 38.5%.

(b) The rates of interest, power and cost of raw materials vary from place to place/State to State. It would, therefore, not be possible to categorically say that these expenses are higher than in other countries.

(c) Adequate protection has been provided to the paper industry. The current rate of import duty is close to the general peak rate of duty of 40%.

Bank Loan Defaulters

711. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rising levels of Bank loan defaults as on 31st March, 1999; and

(b) the measures undertaken to eliminate the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The gross & net NPAs of PSBs for the last three years are as under:

Year	Gross NPAs	% To Total Advances	Net NPAs	% To Net Advances
31.03.1997	43577	17.84	20284.73	9.18
31.03.1998	45653	16.02	21232.18	8.15
31.03.1999	51711	15.89	24211.49	8.13

(b) On the advice of RBI/Government of India the banks have taken the following steps not only to check the incidence of fresh NPAs but also to attempt the recovery of existing NPAs of PSBs.